ሞዓ አንበሳ

Moa Anbessa

ዙፋናዊ አስባላቢ አክል

The Passing of An Era

A short biography
of
Emperor Amha Sellasie 1st of Ethiopia

(1916-1997)

Born on July 27, 1916,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Passed away on January 17, 1997,
Fairfax, Virginia, USA.

Funeral Service
National Presbyterian Church
Near American University
4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington, D. C.
Junction of Mass Ave and Neb Ave
15:00-pm. To 17:00 pm
Sunday, 26th January 1997

Emperor Amha Selassie the 1st
of
Ethiopia
passed away on
January 17, 1997
at
Fair Oax Hospital, Fairfax, Virginia.

Emperor Amha Sellasie 1st of Ethiopia, other wise known as Asfaw Wossen Haile Selassie was born on Hamle 20, 1908 Ethiopian Calender (July 27, 1916) European Calender from His father the late Emperor Haile Selassie the 1st and His mother Empress Mennen of Wollo in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(The Burrk book of Monarchy referred to His Majesty Amha Selassie as the only living monarch who had direct descent from King David of Israel and the Prophet Mohammed Of Islam (blessed be His name), thus sharing direct blood line to two of the region's popular religious heritage.)

He was brought up according to the Royal Custom and tradition due to a person of his stature, in the Ethiopian Palace with royal discipline, and was cultivated in Ethiopian religious moral values unique to his heritage with balanced mixture of academic, athletic and spiritual guidance. He grew up in the Imperial Palace with all the opportunity to witness the workings of government in action at very close hand. He was made crown prince with the title of Merid Azmatch at the early age of 15 when his father assumed the unique Ethiopian throne on November 2nd, 1930.

At the early days of the 2nd World War, as early as 1935 when Fascist Italy invaded Ethiopia, Emperor Amha Selasie at the prime age of 20, led his own troops to battle against the Italians along with his father and the heroes and heroines of Ethiopia until the final call when Italian use of Poison gas and other internationally prohibited weapons forced them to retreat. He and His father Emperor Haile Selasie continued to organize the resistance and were later forced in to the life of exile first in Jerusalem and later in Bath, England for five years. While in exile he studied at Liverpool University. He joined his father in the campaign to liberate Ethiopia from fascist Italy and entered Ethiopia from South Africa while his father moved in to Ethiopia from the Sudan. This separate journey was made to ensure the safety of the Ethiopian crown in case one of them died in action, the other will succeed to lead the nation in that time of crisis.

After the liberation in 1941, he took part actively in the re-construction effort of his beloved country and contributed significantly to the early development work of his people. Some of the most important offices and responsibilities he held were:

Governor General and Viceroy of the Governorates of

- *Begemder and Semien presently known as Gonder Region*
- *Tigrai and Wollo regions and*
- *President of the Ethiopian Red Cross and patron to several humanitarian, art and cultural organizations.*
- *He represented the Ethiopian Crown and made state visits to numerous foreign countries including Japan who he admired greatly.*

During his tenure as Viceroy and Governor, these regions saw great advancement and early reconstruction after war by the development of schools, hospitals, and transportation and later on the much admired historical tourist industry which to date are the Mecca of the tourist trade in that part of the world. He was specially remembered for his accessibility, princely generosity and most all commitment to the poor and those who needed justice and special attention. Due to these special qualities, many who knew him personally and the general public at large were looking forward to the time when he would be crowned their Emperor and discharge his honorable duties. Unfortunately, this was not to be. His was a life of unfulfilled promise for the Ethiopian people.

This very handsome , personable and charitable prince was so much loved by his people that even would be aspirants to political power in Ethiopia wanted his charm, charisma and popularity to rub off on them. We can mention the Neway brothers (Girmame and General Mengistu) and later the Dergue (military junta) who called on him to be their leader and Emperor in 1960 and 1974 respectively. At the early days of the uprisings of 1974, before the onset of the Marxist led revolution he suffered a stroke as a complication of his ongoing diabetic problem. This forced him and his immediate family who accompanied him to seek medical attention abroad in 1973. He never returned to his beloved country since that time. He has always yearned to return to his home country and this never materialized, which was a source of great sorrow and disappointment to him during his life of forced exile in Europe and North America. Needless to say it was painful for him to observe his beloved country descending to chaos in the name of misguided Marxist diatribe and radical loony left revolution. The plight of his people continues to generate unparalleled sympathy, concern and generosity from the international community as experienced in 1974, 1985 and now in 1997 just before his death..

In all his time in exile he worked tirelessly for the day when he could return to his beloved people. As part of this consuming passion for his people, and persistent request and pressure from his followers, friends and admirers, Emperor Amha Selassie the 1st of Ethiopia consented to assume the unique responsibility that history has placed on him of leading the

struggle of his people in exile to return home to restore the spiritual, psychological and physical honor of Ethiopia in the world stage.

Unfortunately, he saw his beloved country, Ethiopia, once a model of stability, maturity and growth at the head and jewel of the crown of Africa descend to chaos, irrationality and corruption. Internationally, Ethiopia came to be known as the pariah of the world community during the terror of the military junta for over 17 years as one of the satellites of the then Marxist Soviet Union . Amha Sellasie was increasingly seen as the only individual who could save the country from further ethnic troubles and at the same time guide Ethiopia through the transitional period to a fully fledged democratic nation. The Ethiopian people recall with pride the rule of Emperor Haile Selassie who was universally respected and widely admired by the whole world and specially the people of African descent allover the world and specially in the United States of America. It was the dream of Amha Selassie to restore that respect, admiration, dignity and honor.

At this stage, we believe it is appropriate to share with you some of his visionary and patriotic statements at some of his rare public appearances.

"From the day we assumed the position of Crown Prince to our historical throne we have always stood by our renowned father and leader in serving our nation. Our present efforts are all directed towards achieving this noble goal of serving our people to the highest standard. Our life is closely attached to that of our people and nothing can change this. Their happiness is our happiness, their travails are ours and their suffering and death is also ours. We have no life either public or private separate from our people. We never want to have a different life than that of our people. We want our people to have peace and live in prosperity. Due to the well known reasons, we have not been able to be amongst our people. Yet, we have always been and continue to share their aspiration in thought and spirit. During our life in exile we have shared the life of our people both in happiness and in sorrow. We are still ready to be part of our peoples experience by being there physically with them in Ethiopia to lead our people towards a better future. . With the assistance of the Almighty God,. Our desire and vision is to do all w e can for our people and leave behind a solid foundation for the next generation by leaving our historical heritage and building the next bridge to subsequent generations that will be passed on from one generation to the next. We believe it is vital that all concerned individuals including those with skills and talents as well as the Royal House should be part of this historical patriotic duty. We will also do our part by utilizing all the traditional and modern means available to us to advance the concept of Constitutional Monarchy where the crown facilitates democratic heritage by offering wisdom and guidance to future leadership under the rule of law."

It was for this reason, that patriotic Ethiopians established the "Moa Anbessa" (The Conquering Lion of Ethiopia) --Ethiopians for Constitutional Monarchy with a mission to preserve the old and historical heritage of Ethiopian identity to be passed on from generation

to generation with a special role of leading our people to prosperity and liberty. His majesty was requested to be the patron of this organization and provided his guidance to his last days by providing generous and insightful support by sharing his wisdom, time and most all his resources available to him.

However, it is our experience that "man proposes and the Lord disposes'" His Imperial Majesty Amha Selassie was always ready and willing to return home to be part of his peoples' destiny. There was nothing more pleasing to him than this noble cause. It is an irony that this wish of his did not materialize in his life time. This makes his departure at this particular juncture in our nation's history even more poignant. The sorrow is not only that of his family alone but that of the entire Ethiopian People and friends of Ethiopia in the international community. History will always remember this noble and generous man with respect, admiration and fascination due to him. He is the last link between the old world order and the new uncertain frontier for modern Ethiopia.

He is survived by his wife Empress Medferiash Work Abebe, his successor and crown prince Yacob Amha Sellasie, his three sisters Mariam Sena, Sehin, Sefrash and his grand children from his first wife Princess Wolete -Israel Seyoum by his eldest daughter Princess Ejig-Ayehu Amha Selassie:- Samson, Rahel, Mehret, Bekere, Aster and Yishaq. And the Royal Hose Hold led by his only surviving sister Princess Tenagne Work Haile Selassie. Most of all, by his beloved people scattered all over the world.

May His soul rest in peace!

The King is dead, long live the King (his successor)!
Long live the Ethiopian Crown!

Ethiopia lifts up her hands to God (Psalms 68:31)

prepared
by
His loyal and loving sons and daughters of Ethiopia

Moa-Anbessa -the Conquering Lion of Ethiopia

Ethiopian-American Youths dedicated to the restoration of the Ethiopian Crown

in conjunction with

Patriotic Ethiopians for the restoration of the Monarchy

BGHMKM/22Jan97